



# OLR RESEARCH REPORT

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## QUESTIONS FOR NOMINEES TO CRRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### **CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY (CRRA) (CGS §§ 22A-261 AND 262)**

- The authority's board of directors consists of 11 members appointed by the governor and legislative leaders. The governor appoints three members and the Senate president pro tempore, the House speaker, the Senate minority leader, and House minority leader two each.
- Three directors must represent towns with a population of fewer than 50,000 and two must represent towns with populations greater than 50,000.
- Five directors represent the public and must have extensive, high-level experience in a specified field. Three must be experienced in finance, business, or industry; one in an environmental field; and one in an energy field.

- Directors serve four-year terms and must be confirmed by both houses. The governor designates one member to serve as chairman, with the advice and consent of both houses. The chairman serves at the governor's pleasure.
- CRRA is a quasi-public agency that plans, designs, builds, and operates solid waste disposal, volume reduction, recycling, intermediate processing, and resources recovery facilities. The chairperson, with approval of the board of directors, appoints the president of the authority, who supervises the authority's administrative affairs and technical activities.

## **CURRENT ISSUES**

1. Many contracts between CRRA and individual municipalities expire this year. What are the reasons why municipalities may not renew their contracts? What is CRRA doing to address these reasons and to encourage municipalities to renew their contracts?
2. Earlier this winter Governor Malloy announced the establishment of a working group to evaluate and recommend changes to the state's recycling system. Are there any particular aspects of the system that you believe the working group should examine?
3. Two bills before the legislature this session (SB 333 and HB 5125) would alter the composition of the CRRA board of directors by increasing the members from 11 to 15, among other things. Do you believe that changes to the board are necessary or would be beneficial? Are there any groups that are underrepresented on CRRA's board?

## **FINANCES**

1. Over time, have tipping fees generally increased? What factors impact a fee increase?
2. The economic climate has forced public and private entities to operate with smaller budgets. What steps has CRRA taken to operate more efficiently? Are there new technologies that CRRA could employ to increase efficiency?

3. To incentivize recycling, each year since 2008 CRRA has provided rebates to municipalities for each qualifying ton of recyclables delivered to CRRA during the fiscal year ending in June of that year. The rebates during the past two years were \$5 per ton of qualifying recyclables but in 2008 the rebate was \$10 per ton. Does CRRA have plans to increase the per ton incentive amount in the future?

## **SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING**

1. The state's Solid Waste Management Plan calls for increasing the state's recycling rate to 58% by 2024. Are some regions of the state more successful at recycling than others? If so, what factors account for the difference? What can the state and CRRA do to ensure that Connecticut reaches its recycling goal?
2. Some municipalities have implemented or are considering implementing pay-as-you-throw programs where residents are charged for each bag of trash they dispose. Do you believe that these programs are effective at reducing waste and increasing recycling?
3. Should the state's list of mandatory recyclable items be expanded? What items do you believe should be recycled? How much preparation time does CRRA need to accept newly added recyclables?
4. In recent years, the legislature passed "producer responsibility" laws concerning electronics and architectural paint to hold producers accountable for the cost of disposing or recycling their products. There is a currently a bill before the legislature to create a similar program for mattresses. What is your opinion on these types of programs?
5. Do you believe the state's bottle bill law works well at reducing recyclables from the waste stream? Would you recommend any changes to the law?

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